

DESIGN OF AN APPLICATION SPECIFIC PROCESSOR (ASP)

A method of operating a computer system to design an application specific processor (ASP) comprises defining a set of peripherals for the ASP which are responsive to stimuli and which communicate with a processor, generating for each peripheral an input file which defines the functional attributes of that peripheral in a high level language with an input data structure, entering the input file into the computer system and operating a modelling tool loaded on the computer system to generate from the input file a register definition file by allocating specific elements of the input data structure to predefined sectors of a register definition table, and using the register definition file to create in silicon the registers of the ASP.